

## Bogota WMA 2005-06 Season Report

Bogota WMA was proclaimed in May 2005 as a new TWRA Wildlife Management Area. Located in Dyer County, in Northwest Tennessee, Bogota WMA encompasses 1300 acres along the Obion River Drainage. Bogota is being developed primarily as a public waterfowl hunting area and was purchased with TWRA Wetland Acquisition funds, along with partner funding from Ducks Unlimited, the North American Wetland Conservation Fund, Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration, and the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation.

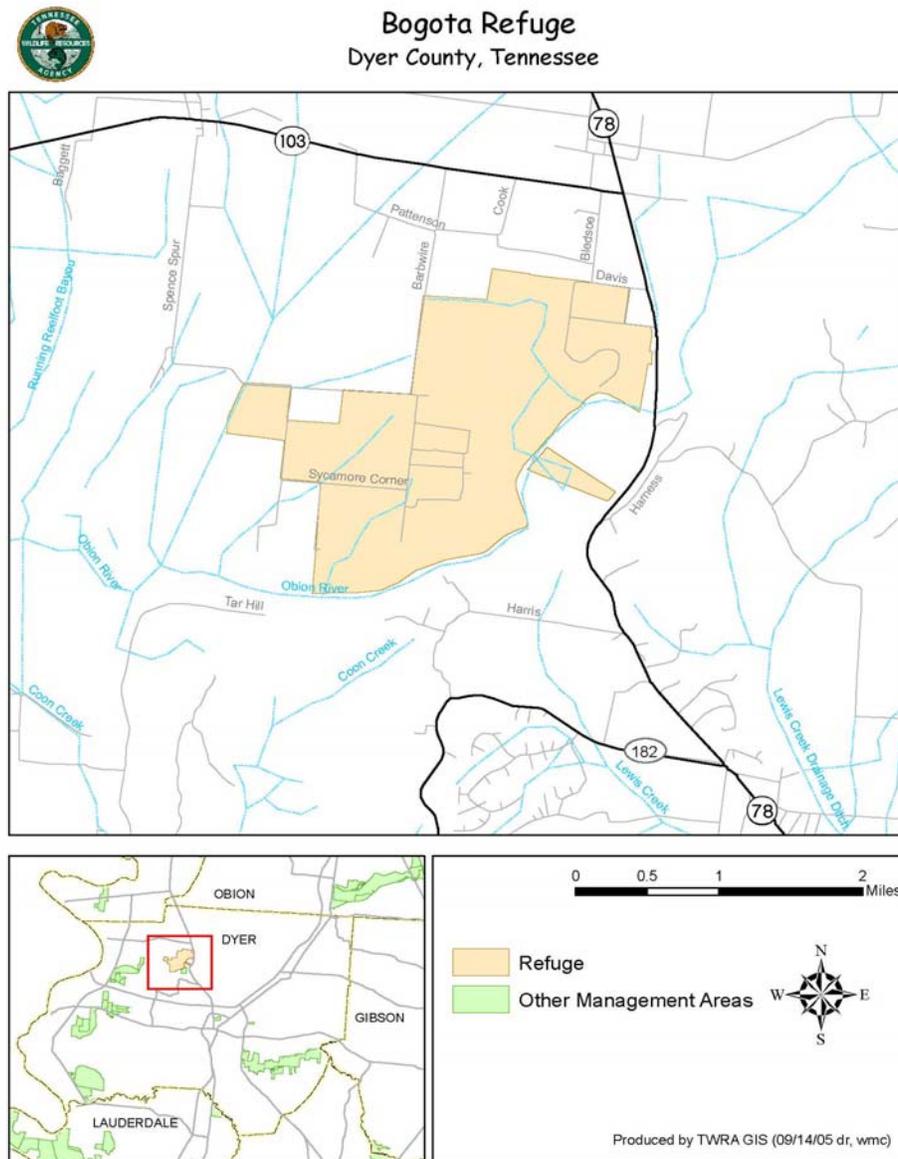


Figure 1. Bogota WMA, Dyer County, TN

The first public hunting season on Bogota Wildlife Management Area occurred in winter 2005. The Bogota WMA offers a unique type of waterfowl hunting experience which allows hunters throughout the state to draw for a reservation of weekend hunting as opposed to other TWRA WMA which have blind drawings for the entire season.

Most TWRA Waterfowl Management areas hold on-site blind drawings for the late season in August but Bogota is regulated by a computer drawing with both Internet and mail applications accepted. Hunting reservations for parties were for each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of the late waterfowl season (the WMA served as a refuge and was closed to hunting Monday through Thursday). Five pools were open for 10 weekends creating drawing opportunities for 50 parties. Hunting was restricted to the pool drawn and there was no reallocation of pools when hunters did not show up. Pool number 1 is open to public hunting on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during the late season.

The reservation system also required all applicants—including Sportsman License holders—to pay a \$10 non-refundable administrative fee, to cover the cost of conducting this type of waterfowl drawing (Rule 1660-1-8-.05). The cost of the drawing was approximately \$30,300. The deadline for applications was October 5 and 3,185 applicants applied. Fifty parties totaling 151 hunters were selected for hunts in 2005-06.

About 54 % of applicants were from TWRA Region I, while 24 % were from Region II, 12 % were from Region III and 10% were from Region IV (Figure 2).

Figure 2

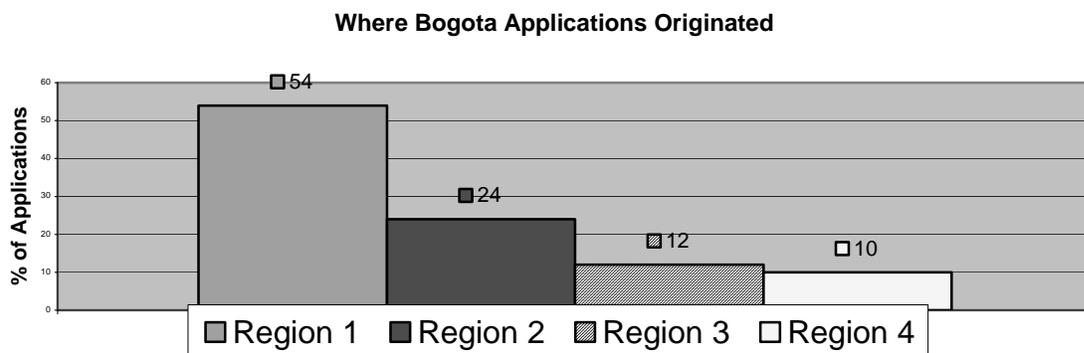
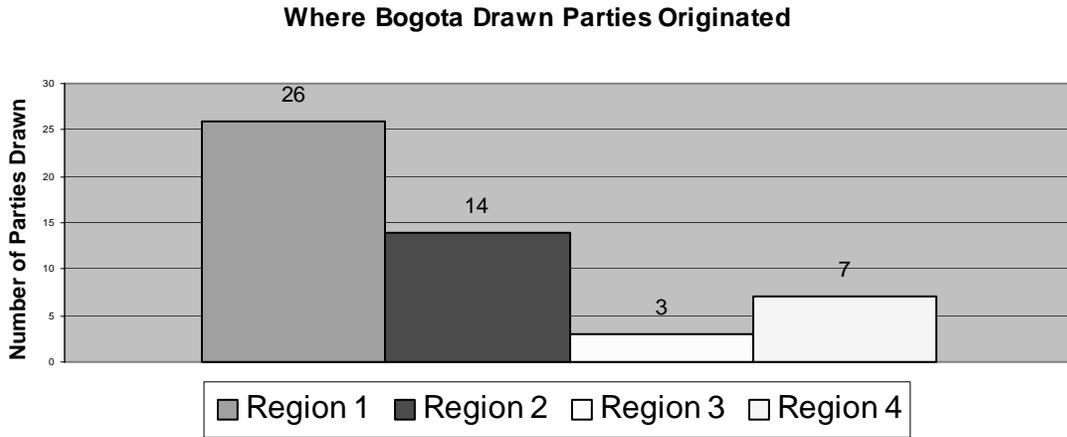


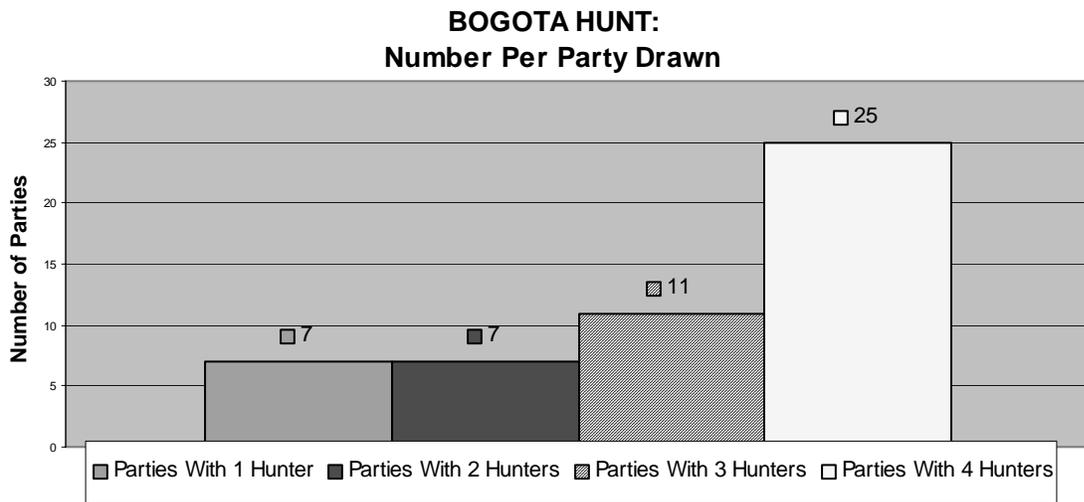
Figure 3 illustrates from which TWRA Region the drawn parties originated.

Figure 3



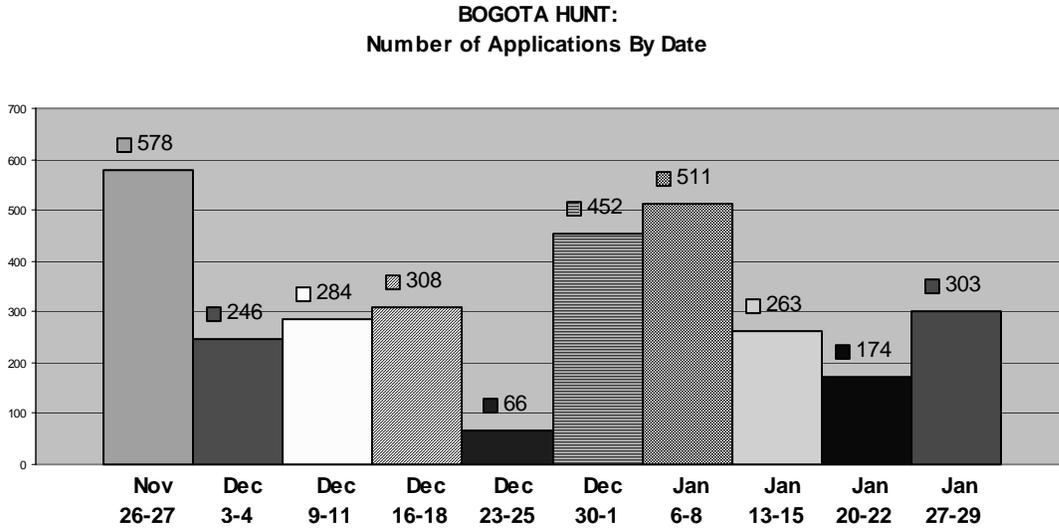
The average number of hunters per party drawn was 3. Parties of four represented about half of the total parties drawn (Figure 4).

Figure 4



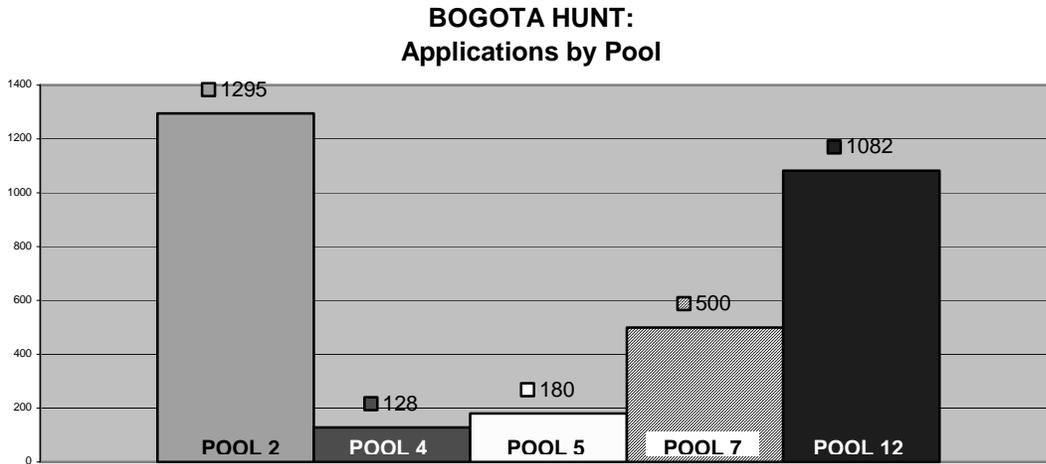
The weekends most preferred among applicants were November 26-27, January 6-8, and December 30-January 1 (Figure 5).

Figure 5



Applicants most often selected Pools 2 and 12, representing 75% of the total (Figure 6).

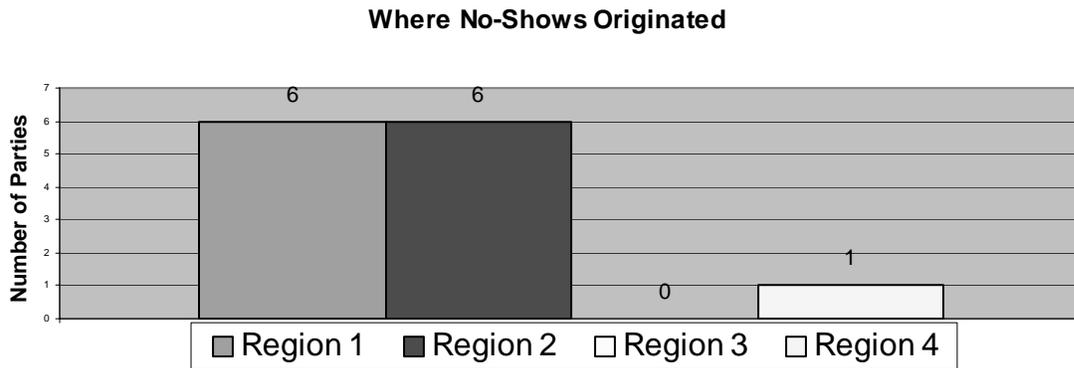
Figure 6



## Results

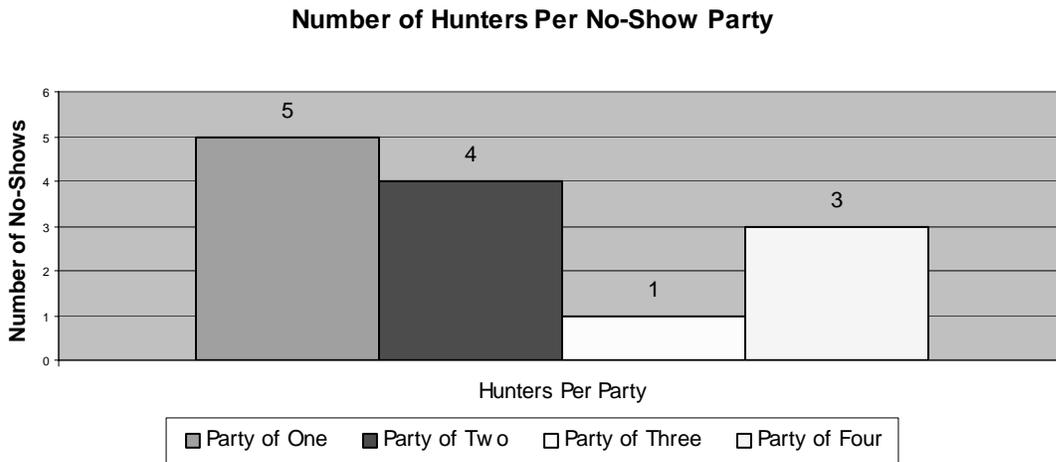
Of the 50 parties drawn, 13 parties did not show up for hunts. The percentage of no-shows by region is shown in Figure 7.

Figure 7



The no-show parties consisted of 5 parties of one, 4 parties of 4, 3 parties of 2 and 2 parties of 3 hunters (Figure 8).

Figure 8



Many of the no-show parties occurred on opening weekends or late in the season (Table 1). One theory as to why there were many late season no-shows was that late season rains had distributed ducks across region 1 and hunting was probably good in most places.

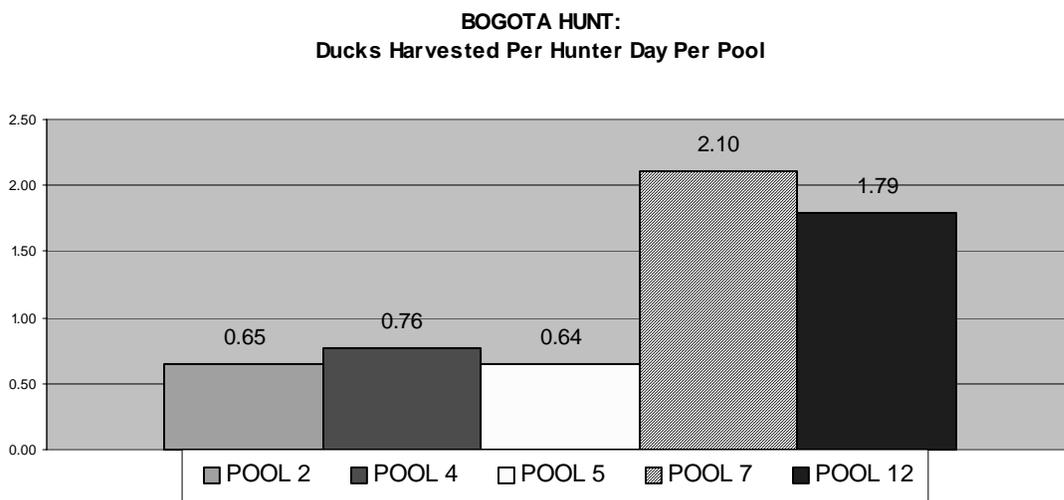
**Table 1.**

	Pool 2	Pool 4	Pool 5	Pool 7	Pool 12
	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
Nov 26-27	3	Unk (1)	2	Unk (4)	1-2
Dec 3-4	NS(1)	NS(2)	NS(4)	3	4
Dec 9-11	2	Unk (1)	2	4	3
Dec 16-18	3	3	Unk (3)	3	1 - 2
Dec 23-25	3	1 - 2	Unk (4)	NS(1)	Unk (4)
Dec 30-1	2	Unk (3)	3	1	Unk (3)
Jan 6-8	Unk (2)	Unk (2)	Unk (4)	1-2	2
Jan 13-15	NS(4)	Unk (4)	NS(4)	NS(3)	1-2
Jan 20-22	Unk (4)	3	1 - 2	NS(1)	NS(4)
Jan 27-29	NS(2)	NS(2)	NS(1)	Unk (4)	NS(1)

Unk = Unknown  
 NS = No-Show

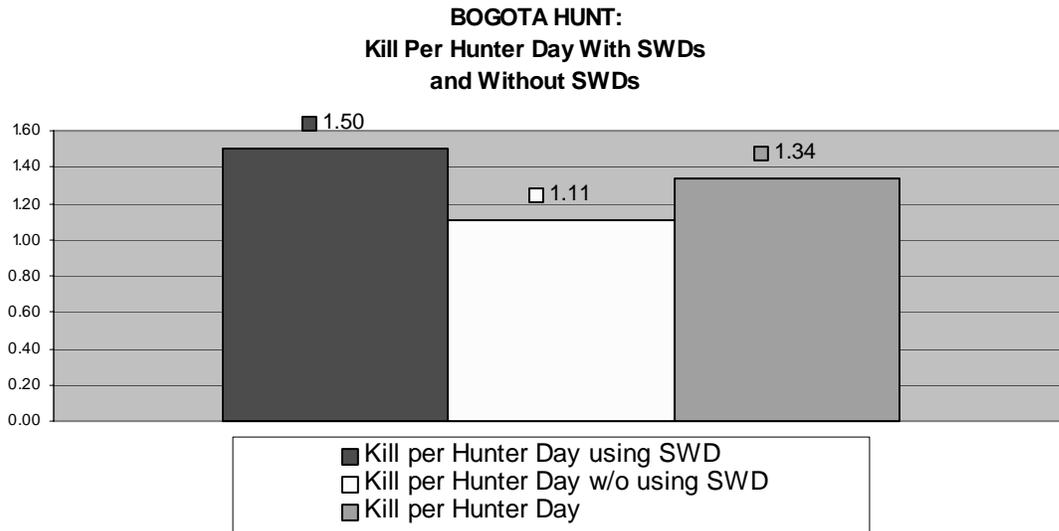
Hunting success varied throughout the season and by pool. Pools 7 and 12 had the highest harvest per hunter at 2.1 and 1.8 ducks per hunter-day (Figure 9).

**Figure 9**



The average harvest per hunter trip to Bogota in 2005-06 was 1.34 ducks per trip (Figure10). This harvest rate is slightly low compared to the average daily bag limit in TN over the last 4 years of 1.5 ducks per hunter day (TWRA Waterfowl Technical Report 2005).

**Figure10**



Harvest per hunter-day using spinning wing decoys was higher than those parties that did not use them. There were no harvested geese reported by hunters or TWRA staff on Bogota this season but not all hunters have turned in a survey card. To date, 75 hunters have returned survey cards.

**Conclusions**

Most of the state experienced very dry conditions through the majority of the late duck season. Below average rainfall and some water leakage problems in several pools resulted in less than optimal water levels during parts of the season. Wells were operated for most of the late season in order to keep several pools flooded. Leaks in some pools (primarily 2, 5, and 7) are attributed to geological features known as “sand-blows” caused by earthquakes in the 1800s.

Several hunter comments reported that hunting was difficult due to a lack of concealing cover for the hunters. These are newly constructed impoundments and concealing vegetation on the levees and pool interior have not had time to grow yet. As these pools age, cover will improve rapidly.

There were many complaints received at Regional offices and in the TWRA Wildlife Division about the \$10 nonrefundable fee. Many Sportsmen's license holders were angry that their license didn't cover the fee. The Agency considered the input received from hunters and evaluated the cost of the drawing process (we took into account the number of applicants, the costs of the new on-line application process, etc.). The Agency decided to remove the fees for Sportsman's license and type 167 permit holders but the \$10 nonrefundable fee will still be in place for all other license types.